YPSILANTI CATHOLIC

Published Weekly in the Interest of Saint John the Baptist Parish

January 2, 1972

JUST A WORD....

by Fr. Harvey

"A Holiday Thank You"

The beautiful season of Christmastide could never be so extraordinary were it not for the many parishioners who lend their hands in preparation for the second greatest feast day of the Church.

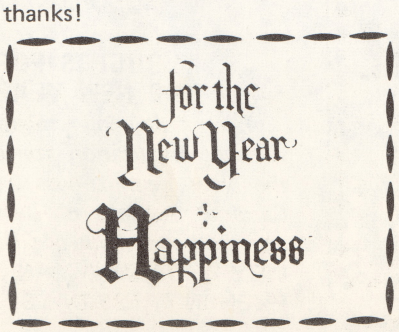
Again this year, Mr. Dave Wheeler, accompanied by a small caravan headed for Chelsea where we obtained the tree which stands in the sanctuary. Among those who made the expedition in addition to Dave and myself were Jerry Wysocki and his brothers, Joe and Chet, along with Tim O'Hara and Bill Hall. Falling the tree proved to be the least taxing step of the whole operation. The moment of heavy reckoning came when we arrived at the main doors of the Church. Even after adding the muscular power of Mr. Dick Wagner and Deacon Ken, we realized that our tree was a bit larger than those of years past. Little by little we moved toward the sanctuary to the sound of painful grunts and groans. Gaining the assistance of Wayne Jackson and Mike DeLano, the mighty pine 'soon' stood erect. The next day, Tim O'Hara returned with cousin Steve and Chet Wysocki to test all the tree lights and assist in the painstaking task. Needless to say bringing part of a forest into a building does create a mess. Mrs. Nancy Wagner along with Cindy and Bill and Diane DeLano headed operation clean-up when they were not hanging wreaths and other decorations along with Jack McClure. The variety in our decorations is due to the artistic planning ability of Jack and Nancy and the consultation and personal assistance of Joe from Hon's Florist.

The Nativity scene was built in part by Mr. Walter Brown. Sr. Jacqueline, Bill Hall and Tim Buschell were co-engineers. We are grateful to Mrs. Hazel Ferraro and the Family of the late Hannah Thomas for donating the white poinsettias used in the Nativity set. Sr. Trudy obtained a few extra pieces of barn wood to complete the construction.

Trimmings, beautiful though they be, only add to the festivity of our main focus, the liturgical celebration of Christ's presence among us. The efforts of Mr. Lee Sanford, Mr. Ted Birdsall and Sr. Mary in planning the Masses for Christmas Day and other Sundays continue to be appreciated deeply. The members of the choir, under the direction of Sr. Mary and the accompaniment of Mr. David Schall performed very well at the Midnight Mass. Sr. Trudy's work with the willing group of young choral readers bore inspiring results. An appreciative thanks is due the instrumentalists who added the sound of brass to the carols and other music sung during the Midnight Mass. Those who usually attend the "silent" 7:00 a.m. morning Mass were able to sing for a change as faithful Marie Stachlewitz volunteered to play the organ for the early Mass.

Thanks is also due radio station WAAM and their engineers for broadcasting the Midnight Mass from our parish.

To all who helped make this holy season so happy, our grateful thanks!



NOW IT'S OFFICIAL DEACON KEN

Last Monday evening, December 27, Kenneth Grodzicki, who has been serving us here at St. John's since November, was ordained a Deacon and will serve us in that capacity until he is ordained to the priesthood.

Ken was born September 19, 1946 in Detroit, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Grodzicki. He attended elementary school at St. Sebastian Church in Dearborn and entered Sacred Heart Seminary in 1960, attending Cardinal Mooney Latin school. He graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary 'cum Laude' in 1968. His theological studies were pursued at St. John's Seminary in Plymouth.

When the change in dioceses took place in June, Ken was affiliated with the Archdiocese of Detroit, because his parental home was in that diocese. It was his desire to belong to the Diocese of Lansing, however, so he pursued the matter and indicated his desire to follow through on his appointment to St. John's as a Deacon. This decision was made possible because another Deacon, Terry Kerner, was willing to participate in the 'trade'. Terry incidentally, will be ordained to the priesthood here at St. John's in February.

We are very happy to have Ken with us and hope that this exposure to reality as it exists in this

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community will be more of a help than a hindrance, more inspiration than expiration, and more hope-filled than discouraging. Experience gained here is probably not written in the books but maybe that isn't all bad.

Be that as it may, our prayers and congratulations are with him and his parents on this joyous day. May he grow in his love of God and desire to serve the people of God.

ONLY CHRIST WILL REMAIN

Your Christmas lights will go out,
Your Christmas tree will fade,
Your Christmas gifts will wear out,
Your Christmas tinsel will be forgotten,
Your Christmas cards will be put away or destroyed...
Only Christ will remain.

Long after the Christmas dinner is eaten,
Long after the merry-making is hushed,
Long after the guests have departed,
Long after the gift certificate is cashed,
Long after the momentary thrill is dead...
Christ will remain.

He will be the one with you because He came to identify Himself with you.
He will endow your life with meaning.
He will bless your home with unfailing joy.
He will bring fulfillment when life seems empty.
He will give refreshment when your heart...your body...grow weary.
Yes, He will do all these things, and many more, because "He was made man."
He will continue Christmas for you as long as you wish...

Fr. Joel Pokorny, O.S.B.

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The following might be a valuable meditation for beginning the New Year. It was written by Cardinal Suenens of Belgium and appeared in an issue of CRITIC.

WHY ARE YOU A MAN OF HOPE EVEN IN THESE DAYS?

Because I believe that God is new every morning, I believe that God is creating the world today, at this very moment. He did not just create it in the long ago and then forget about it. That means that we have to expect the unexpected as the normal way God's Providence is at work.

That "unexpected" of God is exactly what saves and liberates us from determinism and from the sociologism of gloomy statistics about the state of human affairs in the present. That "unexpected", since it comes from God, is something coming out of His love for us, for the betterment of His children.

I am hopeful, not for human reasons or because I am optimistic by nature, but because I believe in the Holy Spirit present in His Church and the world -- even if people don't know His name. I am hopeful because I believe that the Holy Spirit is the creating Spirit, and that He will give us every morning fresh freedom, joy, and a new provision of hope, if we open our soul to Him.

The story of the Church is a long story, filled with the wonders of the Holy Spirit: we must remember the saints and the prophets bringing, in hopeless times, a gulfstream of graces and new lights to continue on the road.

I believe in the surprises of the Holy Spirit. The Council was such a surprise, and Pope John was another. They took us aback. Why should we think that God's imagination and love might be exhausted?

Hope is a duty, not just a nicety. Hope is not a dream, but a way of reality.

Happy those who dream dreams and are ready to pay the price to make them become true!

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

A special note of thanks is extended to Lori LaVoy, Mary Sullivan, Patty Adams, and, of course, Bill Burgard for the fine work done on the Advent and Penance Service banners. In addition to decorating the church, the banners were very helpful in expressing the sentiments of our parishioners. Again, thank you.

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Our prayer sympathy is extended to the families of Mr. Walter A. Kempf and Mrs. Hannah Thomas.

Mr. Kempf, age 71, passed away on December 16 in Florida. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Fr. Harvey in our church on December 21. Burial followed in our cemetery.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Kempf is survived by one son, Gerald of Dearborn and two daughters, both of whom are members of our parish, Mrs. Charles (Edna) Leitshuh and Mrs. Clarence (Rita) Borener. Jim and Chuck Borener served as commentator and lector for their grandfather's funeral Mass.

Mrs. Hannah Thomas, age 74, passed away suddenly December 21 while visiting her son in Arizona. Mrs. Thomas was a convert here in July, 1969. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Fr. Harvey on December 23. Msgr. J. V. MacEachin from St. Thomas Aquinas Church, East Lansing, joined in concelebrating the funeral Mass. Mrs. Thomas is survived by two sons, Robert of Arizona, George of Birmingham and a daughter, Mrs. Henry (Flora) Chiodini of Ypsilanti. Mrs. Thomas' son, George, a lay minister of the Eucharist at his parish, Holy Name Church of Birmingham and a candidate for the permanent diaconate, served as commentator and lector for his mother's Mass. Three grandsons, Matt Chiodini, David and Jonathan Thomas served the Mass. Burial followed in St. John's Cemetery.

May they rest in peace.

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PARISH CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, January 2
NO PRE–SCHOOL CLASSES
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM - Baby-sitting in Room 5 Religion Center
7:00 PM Creative Liturgy
NO HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

MONDAY, January 3
Boy Scouts - Hall PM

TUESDAY, January 4
7:30 PM Liturgy Meeting, Rm. 9 Religion Center
7:30 PM Convert Classes, Rectory, Deacon Ken

WEDNESDAY, January 5
5:30 PM Religion Staff Dinner and Meeting for Elementary Religion Teachers

THURSDAY, January 6
7:15 PM Adult Choir, Rm. 9 Religion Center
Administration Commission Meeting, Library, Religion Center

FRIDAY, January 7
Preparation for Baptism

SUNDAY, January 9
11:00 Mass - Baptisms
8:00 High School Religion Classes, Religion Center

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SUNDAY LITURGY
SATURDAY EVENING – 5:00 p.m.
SUNDAY: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

HOLYDAY LITURGY
5:30 and 9:00 a.m.; 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

DAILY LITURGY
7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday; 9:00 a.m. Saturday

BAPTISMS
At 11:00 a.m. Mass on second Sunday of each month.

CONFESSIONS
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 and 8:00 p.m. or by appointment.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS
7:15 Wednesday evenings.

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Members of the parish team would be happy to join you and your family at dinner. Please feel free to extend your invitation directly to the person you would like to invite.

ALTAR BOYS

TEAM 1
David Dupuis and Tom Anhut

TEAM 2
Scott Phetteplace and Mike Cicirelli

SATURDAY, January 8
Tom Weisharr and Larry Dupuis

SUNDAY, January 9
7:00 Jerry Mose and David Gallesero
9:00 Tom Geiner and Paul Buchard
11:00 Rick Steeby and Greg Gillman
7:00 PM Jerry Sullivan and John Madigan

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, January 3, 1972
7:00 AM Diane Conner, req. by Joseph Conner

TUESDAY, January 4, 1972
7:00 AM Walter Kempf, req. by Mrs. Andy Kelly, Mrs. Frank Panek, Mrs. Carrie Chadwick, Mrs. Anthony White

WEDNESDAY, January 5, 1972
7:00 AM Judy Laurain, req. by Ben and Monica Laurain

THURSDAY, January 6, 1972
7:00 AM Al Walters, req. by Joseph DeFilippi

FRIDAY, January 7, 1972
7:00 AM Charles Sinkule, req. by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sinkule and Eileen Sinkule

SATURDAY, January 8, 1972
9:00 AM Walter A. Kempf, req. by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stein and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stein

SUNDAY, January 9, 1972
9:00 AM Mrs. Aileen Etu, req. by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Idstein
11:00 AM Dr. Donald Kasper, req. by The 11-7 Shift, Beyer Hospital

FINANCIAL BAROMETER

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SUNDAY, December 26, 1971
Sunday Offertory $2,048.50

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